



TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Selectmen

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Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

APPROVED

Monday November 2, 2009

6:00 P.M.

Town Offices

Members present: Selectwoman Elizabeth Coughlin, Selectman Robert Jackson, Selectwoman Ashley O'Neill, Selectman Rich Lemoine, Selectwoman Karyn Puleo.

Staff Present: Town Administrator Rosemary Cashman, Admin. Assist. Therese Gay

Selectwoman Puleo called the meeting to order. The Board was introduced. Selectwoman O'Neill read this evening's agenda.

1. 6:05 P.M. Recreation Department - Update

The Board welcomed Allison McNamara, Recreation Director. Allison announced the first annual "Festival of Trees" fundraising event. This event will benefit the committee's programs and supplement the department's budget deficit. The festival is a donation-based raffle. Businesses and organizations donate decorated trees, and other holiday items. The event will take place at the Pheasant Lane Mall. Shoppers can purchase raffle tickets as they walk by as they shop. The displays will be up for 6 days. On the sixth day the raffle tickets will be drawn and winners notified.

The Youth Council, which is made up of representatives from the youth sports organization of Tyngsborough, would like to bring forward bingo as a fundraising idea. The Youth Council is made up of the following youth sports organization: Amy Schade, Youth Soccer; Mindy Boyd, Youth Cheer; Bill Rodrick, Youth Football; Barry Dick, Youth Football/Lacrosse; Daniel Butler, Youth Soccer; Brendan Beckstein, Youth Baseball; Michael Knight, Youth Softball; Scott Moreau, School Athletic Director. The Council has been working with the Field Use Committee to find a profitable fundraising entity that would encompass all user groups working together for one result. The monies from the bingo would cover the cost of maintaining the field adjacent to the Elementary School. Bingo is regulated by the State and requires approval from the Board of Selectmen and the Police Chief. The School Committee has approved the use of the cafeteria at the Elementary School.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectwoman O'Neill, second by Selectman Jackson to approve the Youth Council to move forward with the bingo fundraiser.

2. Minutes of Monday October 26, 2009

The Board voted unanimously on a motion buy Selectwoman O'Neill, second by Selectman Lemoine to approve the Minutes of Monday October 26, 2009.

3. Correspondence

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectwoman O'Neill, second by Selectman Lemoine for discussion to accept the Correspondence as read. The Clerk read the Assessor's disclosure of the proposed fiscal year 2010 property values. The flier on the Business Day was announced. Selectwoman nominated Doug Latulippe for warden of the year and asked a vote from the Board. The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectwoman Coughlin, second by Selectwoman O'Neill to nominate Doug Latulippe as Tree Warden of the year.

4. Citizen's/Business Time

The Town Clerk supported by various Town Hall Employees read her letter of support for the hiring of Kerry Colburn-Dion and to document the disappointment in the actions taken. After reading her letter the Town Clerk then distributed to the Selectmen copies of additional letters of support for Ms Dion and the disappointment in the Board's action.

The Town Collector also came forward to clarify the certification program offered to Collector/Treasurers on the number of years needed to complete the requirements to become a CMMT. The Collector also voiced his support for Ms Dion as Treasurer.

Ms Paulette Grout came forward to inform the Board as a follow up from her last visit that Mr. Steven Lisauskas of the Springfield Financial Control Board is willing to attend a Selectmen's meeting to discuss what he and his colleagues have accomplished in the City of Springfield. The Board suggested that Mr. Lisauskas meet with the Strategic Financial Planning Committee. Ms. Grout also mentioned that the Towns of Westford and Groton have been reviewing the implementation of a Public Works Department. Ms Grout thanked the Board for letting her speak.

5. Other Business

A. Appoint BOS representative to the SC negotiations

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectwoman Coughlin, second by Selectman Lemoine to appoint Selectman Robert Jackson as the Board of Selectmen's representative to the School Committee negotiations.

B. Appointments

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Lemoine, second by Selectman Jackson to approve a memorandum of agreement with the Highway Union for a temporary employee.

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Lemoine, second by Selectman Jackson to appoint Michael Gagnon as a temporary employee to the Highway Department for 4 months starting December 1, 2009.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Lemoine, second by Selectwoman O'Neill to appoint Jennifer Wilson as the Assessor's Assistant, as recommended by the Board of Assessors.

The Board of Selectmen voted unanimously on a motion by Selectwoman O'Neill, second by Selectman Jackson to appoint Christine Miceli as the Interim Highway Clerk.

The Board at this time asked Labor Counsel on how the Board should proceed in filling the position of Town Treasurer. Labor Counsel determined negotiation strategy is done in Executive Session.

6. Selectmen's Notes

There were no Selectmen's notes this evening. Selectman Lemoine was very pleased to see the employees come out in support of a colleague.

7. Town Administrator's Notes

The Town Administrator spoke about personnel issues. She expressed concerns about the Town Treasurer's appointment and the ongoing personnel crisis due to wage cuts and several retirements.

8. 7:00 P.M Executive Session – Collective Bargaining

The Board voted on a motion by Selectman Jackson, second by Selectwoman O'Neill to enter into Executive Session to discuss Collective Bargaining and to return to open session only to adjourn. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Robert Jackson, yes; Selectwoman Elizabeth Coughlin; yes; Selectwoman Ashley O'Neill, yes; Selectman Rich Lemoine, yes; Selectwoman Karyn Puleo, yes. The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:00 P.M.

The Board of Selectmen invited Labor Counsel, Darren Klein, the Finance Committee and the School Committee to their meeting to discuss the strategies for the upcoming labor negotiations. Attorney Klein answered questions that were presented. After the discussion the Board thanked the Finance Committee and the School Committee for attending, and those committees left at 9:32 P.M.

The Board asked Attorney Klein to stay on and asked him to clarify the role of the Selectmen in reviewing resumes and asked about the screening process for new candidates. Attorney Klein will give the Board a written reply on the questions asked. The Board thanked Attorney Klein for attending and the information, and he left at 9:20 P.M.

The Board discussed the hiring of the Town Treasurer, the one sticking point was the word preferred on the job description. Everyone was in agreement that the certification is important but was not fully aware of the time constraint, and that it can take up to 3 years to attain the certification. The Vice-Chair will send a letter to the attorney for an opinion on the job application and job posting and the job description. The Selectmen asked the following: 1) can the Board re-offer to this person another offer that requires that the CMMT certification be obtained in 3 years instead of the 1 year originally offered? Or does the position need to be re-posted? 2) If a candidate is hired who does not have the CMMT certification and is unable to obtain that certification within 1 year, can another candidate sue the Town who has the certification or the ability to obtain the certification within 1 year? And 3) if the candidate of choice cannot be hired, should the job description and job posting be re-written or should the Town use the existing documents? The Board agreed to return on Monday November 9 at 6:00 P.M. to discuss the one item and to review the written opinion clarifying executive session verses open session.

The Board voted on a motion by Selectwoman O'Neill, second by Selectman Lemoine to exit Executive Session return to open session only to adjourn. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Robert Jackson, yes; Selectwoman Elizabeth Coughlin; yes; Selectwoman Ashley O'Neill, yes; Selectman Rich Lemoine, yes; Selectwoman Karyn Puleo, yes. The Board exited Executive Session at 10:10 P.M.

9. Adjournment

The Board voted unanimously on a motion by Selectman Jackson, second by Selectman Lemoine to adjourn. The Meeting adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,

Therese Gay
Admin Assistant

Approved on _____